



USAID
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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Kandahar Hilmand Power (KHP) Initiative

OVERVIEW

A reliable and sustainable electrical power system in Kandahar and Hilmand provinces is an important objective of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the International Security Assistance Forces. This will fuel economic growth that is not currently possible as residents face electrical supply shortfalls. Kandahar City itself has a shortfall of 20 to 25 megawatts for its 450,000 residents. Elsewhere in Kandahar and Hilmand provinces, there is no service at all. USAID is working in conjunction with the national utility Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve the supply of electricity in Kandahar and Hilmand provinces.

The Kandahar Hilmand Power (KHP) Initiative entails six integrated components that will take a significant step forward in providing power for Kandahar and Hilmand provinces. KHP improves the Southeast Power System (SEPS), which is the significant source of electricity in southern Afghanistan, serving 380,000 of the 1.7 million people residing in the region. KHP expands renewable power as well as diesel power supply until additional renewable sources can be added. It upgrades the transmission substations that are the backbone for electrical transmission.

KHP builds on previous work done by USAID and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In 2009, USAID finished renovation of units 1 and 3 at the Kajaki Hydropower Plant to reliably generate 32 megawatts of renewable power in the SEPS. KHP will improve the transmission and distribution of this power as well as install unit 2 at Kajakai, adding another 16 megawatts of renewable power. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has added diesel generation to SEPS to bridge the gap between current power shortfall and long-term renewable power. KHP will renovate the distribution system to residences and businesses such that the power can be used.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Renovate, upgrade, and expand the electrical distribution system in Kandahar City, adding more than 10,000 new connections
- Provide additional electricity through diesel power for 16,000 currently connected customers that suffer poor service due to lack of generation
- Add further diesel generation to the Kandahar City grid until more sustainable energy sources are brought online
- Renovate the Durai Junction Switchyard to improve reliability of the SEPS transmission system

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Awarded contract in December 2010

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